

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

DIRNSA PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107681

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS

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REF: ATHENS 4145

1. WE ARE MOST ENCOURAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN REF-
TEL AND SUBSEQUENT CABLES, AND COMMEND YOU AND THE US NEGO-
TIATING TEAM FOR THE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BROUGHT US WHERE WE
ARE.

2. NOW THAT WE HAVE ATTAINED ALMOST ALL OF OUR OBJECTIVES ON THE FIVE MOST TECHNICAL ISSUES, WE ARE APPROACHING THE POINT WHERE ONLY THREE ISSUES, EACH WITH IMPORTANT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, REMAIN: NEA MAKRI/DCS, AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE AND PARITY IN PROCUREMENT. ON THE LATTER ISSUE, WE STILL AWAIT THE GREEK RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL. CONSIDERATION OF THAT GREEK REPLY, ONCE IN HAND, WILL REQUIRE STAFFING IN DOD AND THUS SOME TIME TO COMPLETE.

3. AS FOR THE OTHER TWO REMAINING IMPORTANT ISSUES, WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO RECONFIRM THE COMMITMENT ON THE AIRBORNE RECONNAISSANCE PACKAGE AND TO OFFER A "SWEETENER" SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY ON THE NEA MAKRI/TELECOMMUNICATIONS QUESTION. UNDER

NEW GUIDELINES ENUNCIATED BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON APRIL 15, SUCH COMMITMENTS REQUIRE A SPECIFIC PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS. THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK HAS BEEN PREPARED AND WE WILL EXPEDITE THE PROCESS TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

4. THUS, WE ARE REACHING THE STAGE WHERE WE MIGHT WISH TO CONTEMPLATE A BRIEF PAUSE IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN ATHENS AFTER RESOLUTION OF THE FEW REMAINING TECHNICAL ISSUES. SUCH A PAUSE NEED NOT BE LENGTHY NOR DISRUPTIVE TO THE NEGOTIATING TEMPO. WE WOULD AGREE TO A RECESS ONLY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TALKS WOULD RESUME, PERHAPS IN WASHINGTON, ON A SPECIFIC DATE, PROBABLY LATE THIS MONTH
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OR IN EARLY JUNE. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW TO PROCEED. SUCH A BRIEF PAUSE MIGHT HAVE ATTRACTION TO THE GREEKS AS WE WILL BE FORCED, IN ANY EVENT, BEFORE THE TALKS CAN BE CONCLUDED, TO DROP THE PRETENSE OF "TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS" AND MOVE TO A MORE FORMAL NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK ACCOMPANIED, ALMOST CERTAINLY, BY A PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO OCCUR.

CHRISTOPHER

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